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NOTES

THE HERNANDO DeSOTO NUMBER

A greater interest has been shown in the DeSoto number than in any other recent issue of the *Quarterly*. With some this interest centers in the difference of opinion which has existed since the first study of DeSoto's landing place was made. While it is now almost unanimously agreed that Tampa Bay was the harbor, the site of the Indian village which he chose for his base and at which he remained for five months, is still a subject of discussion. DeSoto's own words "*en la mar*" in his letter written from the village have hitherto done little to settle the question. (*vide Quarterly* pp. 165, 175, 205.) Dr. Dorothy Dodd suggests an interpretation which apparently has been advanced by none of those who have examined the question heretofore, and which seems so pertinent to Dr. Boyd, the author of *The Arrival of DeSoto's Expedition in Florida*, that he suggests others may be interested in considering it. She says: "*en la mar* seems quite reasonable when you consider that, though describing his situation while still at the entrance, DeSoto was actually writing from the village and quite naturally used the preposition that would accord with his present position. A person at the head of the bay would think of distance in terms of *to the sea*."

A HISTORY OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN FLORIDA

Our readers will recall several articles on the Protestant Episcopal Church in Florida during the British period and in later times which Reverend Edgar L. Pennington, S.T.D. has contributed to the *Quarterly*. After further extensive research,

through which he has brought to light much hitherto unused historical material, Dr. Pennington has written a history of that church in Florida from 1763 to 1892. This was published in the last issue of *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, Vol. VII. pp. 3-77.

THE RESTORATION OF OLD ST. AUGUSTINE

The St. Augustine Historical Program being carried out in cooperation with the Carnegie Institution of Washington and under the direction of Dr. Verne E. Chatelain of its staff, moves steadily forward. Its plans and progress were told of in some detail in the *Quarterly* of October last. A report on the defenses of St. Augustine is being prepared for publication, as is another comparing Spanish and British colonial policy in Florida, with especial emphasis on the period from 1737 to 1821. An article on the defenses will appear in an early issue of the *Quarterly*, and one on other phases of the work will follow in a later number.

OGLETHORPE BATTERY MONUMENT

The St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science has erected a monument on Davis Shores marking the site of the main battery from which General James Oglethorpe shelled the fort and town of St. Augustine during his siege of them in 1740. The monument was unveiled and dedicated with a historical program on March 20 last. Addresses were made by Rogero T. Mickler, of St. Augustine; Samuel Gaillard, Curator, South Carolina Historical Society; Charles D. Russell, Georgia Historical Society; and Herbert L. Kahler, National Park Service.

* * *

There has recently been published "Full Justice, the Story of Richard Gentry and His Missouri

Volunteers in the Seminole War." (31 p., privately printed) This is a narrative of a cavalry regiment of seven companies raised in as many counties of Missouri by Richard Gentry, its colonel, for service in the Seminole War. What remained of the regiment led the attack on the concealed Indians at the battle of Lake Okeechobee in which Colonel Gentry and many of his men were killed. The author is William Richard Gentry, Jr., Major, Officers Reserve Corps, St. Louis, Missouri.

CONSTANCE FENIMORE WOOLSON

What has Miss Woolson to do with Florida history? Do you like history? Yes or no, would you not like a vivid glimpse of St. Augustine itself and life there half a century or a century ago? Would you choose to read that, or would you prefer a list of the mayors and aldermen and the year the city hall was built and what it cost? What is written history? Today it is more than it was in the past. History began with a record of rulers and their doings. It still is that, but more and more it becomes an account of the lives of the people.

Miss Woolson looked at St. Augustine and its natives first with the eyes of a stranger-but they were keen eyes and understanding eyes, and she had the literary gift of making you see what she saw. She came in time-came with the first of the flood in the early 1870's and saw the reality of the old St. Augustine; and any one may see it now and always. because she did. So she has a place in the writing of Florida's history; and so we note here that during the late commencement at Rollins College an English building, a house of literature, was dedicated to Miss Woolson and to literature in Florida.

Though she came as a stranger, she returned again and again as a friend, until at last she was

almost one of us; hence we claim a share of her fame for Florida and hold her as one of our foremost writers.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST

The tenth annual essay contest for a silver cup awarded by the Florida State Council, Knights of Columbus, was won by Jane Arthur, of St. Joseph's Academy, St. Augustine. The contest is open to high school classes of the Catholic parochial schools or academies in Florida, and to the Catholic students of other high schools in the State where there is no parochial school. The subject for this contest was "The Life and Times of Augustine Verot, Vicar Apostolic of Florida and first Bishop of St. Augustine." The essays were again judged by Professor A. J. Hanna of Rollins College. One hundred six students of the following schools wrote essays: St. Theresa's Parochial School, Coral Gables ; St. Anastasia High School, Fort Pierce; Gesu High School, Miami; St. James School, Orlando; St. Joseph's Academy, St. Augustine; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Tampa ; Convent of Mary Immaculate, Key West; St. Joseph's School, Hastings ; St. Joseph's Academy, Jacksonville ; St. Michael's High School, Pensacola; St. Ann-on-the-Lake Academy, West Palm Beach; St. Paul's High School, Jacksonville ; Immaculate Conception School, Jacksonville.